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ABSTRACT

Louisiana is one of the few states to produce and distribute school report cards to public school parents statewide. The state undertook a formal evaluation, here reported, of the "1991-92 Report Cards." In Phase 1 a random sample of roughly 2,000 parents and 6,000 faculty statewide was surveyed by mail with a 30-item questionnaire rating the readability and utility of information on the school report cards. Four focus groups, two with parents and two with teachers, were conducted in Phase 2 to follow up and enlarge on initial findings. Parents were generally positive toward the concept, but were somewhat less optimistic that the program could have a real effect on the quality of education. The further the focus shifted from the child's own school, the more pessimistic parents became that the School Report Cards could actually help improve education. Teacher responses showed a similar pattern, but teachers were less uniformly positive than parents. Using survey results and feedback from the focus groups, the state has made substantial modifications to the format of the 1992-93 report cards, including: (1) individualizing formats for elementary, secondary, and K-12 schools; (2) adding explanatory text to each indicator; (3) simplifying tables; (4) presenting both frequencies and percents on most indicators; and (5) rewriting text to an eighth-grade, rather than the former 13th grade level. A sample report card and the survey are attached. (Contains 4 references.) (SLD)

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How Do Parents and Teachers "Grade" Louisiana's School Report Cards Program?

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Introduction

The publication in 1983 of *A Nation at Risk* prompted a flurry of education reform activity as states nationwide sought to create or expand education performance monitoring systems. Though school-level indicator systems have since become commonplace around the nation, Louisiana remains one of a very few states produce and distribute "school report cards" to public school parents statewide.

Louisiana's school indicator system, the Progress-Profiles Program, is mandated by the 1988 Children First Act and administered by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) Bureau of School Accountability. The program's purpose is three-fold: a) to establish a data base for educational planning, b) to increase accountability at all levels, and c) to inform the parents of school children and the general public on the condition of public education. (Children First Act, 1988). To date, three rounds of *Report Cards* have been produced based on data from the 1989-90, 1990-91, and 1991-92 school years.

Because a primary purpose of the Profiles program is to provide parents and the general public with school-level information on the condition of education, its effectiveness is measurable, to some extent, by the degree to which "report card" data are accessible, meaningful, and understandable to a lay audience. Though informal feedback related to these issues was solicited after distribution of the first two *Report Cards*, the LDE chose to undertake a more formal evaluation of the *1991-92 Report Cards*. A third-party evaluation was ruled out due to time and funding constraints, compelling the Bureau of School Accountability to launch its own internal evaluation. The resulting study addressed five research questions, *(See Table 1)* employed a mixed-methods design (i.e., it combined quantitative and qualitative methods), and was conducted in two phases.

In Phase I, a random sample of parents and school faculty statewide were surveyed by mail, using a 30-item questionnaire that rated the readability and utility of information presented on *School Report Cards*. Four focus groups (two with parents, two with teachers) were conducted in Phase II, following up and enlarging upon findings from Phase I.

Table I
Research Questions: *School Report Card* Study

	Research Questions
1.	To what degree are public school parents aware of the Progress Profiles *(School Report Card)* Program?
2.	What attitudes do public school parents and faculty (teachers/principals) express toward the Progress Profiles *(School Report Card)* Program?
3.	How well do public school parents and faculty understand the information presented on the *1991-92 School Report Cards*?
4.	How well do the *1991-92 School Report Cards* convey the type(s) of information that public school parents and faculty want to know about schools?
5.	Do parental and faculty attitudes, awareness, and understanding differ based on demographic characteristics (i.e., gender, race, ethnicity, income, or level of education)?

Phase I: Survey

Research Design

Sample. For the purposes of Phase I, a 10% stratified random sample was drawn from among the 1,388 public elementary and secondary schools that received *1991-92 Report Cards*.[1] Once specific schools had been targeted, districts were asked to draw a 10% random sample of children attending the targeted schools and to provide the LDE with demographic information and mailing labels on those students. Those systems that could not select a random sample of students were asked to provide demographic and mailing information on all students attending the targeted schools so that LDE staff might make the random selection. All but one district complied with the request, yielding a final sample of 135 schools and roughly 2,000 parentss. All faculty at the sample schools also were surveyed, for a total of roughly 6,000 teachers and principals.

Instrumentation. The *1991-92 School Report Cards* were distributed statewide in April 1993. Approximately 30 days later, each parent in the sample was mailed a survey

[1] To ensure that the sample was representative of the population of *Report Card* schools, the sample was stratified by school type (i.e., grade configuration), student body SES, and urbanicity.

form and a *1991-92 School Report Card (see Appendix A)* for his/her child's school. The questionnaire *(see Appendix B)* included 30 closed-ended items, each on a four-point Likert scale. Six items assessed parental attitudes toward the *School Report Card* program. Respondents used the remaining closed-ended items to indicate how readable and informative they found each of the 10 *Report Card* indicators. Respondents were also encouraged to provide open-ended comments. Copies of a slightly modified form were simultaneously distributed to the sample school principals, with instructions that they and their teachers complete and return the surveys to the Bureau of School Accountability.

A total of 291 parent surveys ultimately were returned for a parental response rate of 14.6%. Of the roughly 6,000 faculty, 2,139 returned completed forms for a 35.7% response rate. Despite the low parent response rate, minority representation approximated that found among the general statewide population. Respondents were also evenly distributed across income levels, ranging from a high of 25% in the $15,000 and under category to a low of 15% in the $50,000-plus category.

Analysis. Responses to the closed-ended items were analyzed using descriptive statistics and analysis of variance (ANOVA) so that comparisons could be made across subgroups based on race, gender, and respondent type (i.e., parent or faculty member). Open-ended comments were analyzed using the constant comparative technique (Lincoln and Guba, 1985) and QUALPRO text database manager.

Survey Results

Quantitative Findings. Table I compares parent and teacher responses on the six closed-ended attitudinal items from the *School Report Card* survey. Analysis of all six items showed that parents were generally positive toward the concept of a *School Report Card* program, but somewhat less optimistic that the program could have a real impact on the quality of education at their child's school. Nearly 9 in 10 parent respondents (88.7%) agreed with the statement, "All parents of public school children should receive a *School Report Card* on their child's school." A smaller but still substantial percentage of parents (82.5%) agreed that "The information included in the *School Report Card* helps me better understand the strengths and weaknesses of my child's school."

The farther the focus shifted from the parent and his/her child's school, the more pessimistic the respondents apparently became that the *Report Cards* could actually help improve education. For example, roughly 3 out of every 4 parents (76.6%) felt the *Report*

Table II
Percent of Parents and Faculty Who Agreed With Attitudinal Items

Attitudinal Item	Parents	Faculty
The information included in the enclosed *School Report Card* will help the principals and teachers to improve the quality of education at my/my child's school.	76.6%	70.9%
All parents of public school children should receive a *School Report Card* on their child's school.	88.7%	78.7%
The information included in the *School Report Card* helps me better understand the strengths and weaknesses of my/my child's school.	82.5%	74.2%
Publishing *School Report Cards* like this one will **not** help improve the quality of education.	29.9%	41.0%
Only those parents who request a *School Report Card* should receive one.	25.8%	37.0%
Reports like this one are a waste of time and money.	21.7%	39.5%

Card data would help faculty to make improvements at their child's school. However, when presented with the more general comment, "Publishing *School Report Cards* like this one will **not** help improve the quality of education, nearly 30% of respondents agreed. This pattern of parents expressing greater satisfaction/optimism about their child's school but greater pessimism toward education in general is consistent with national findings (Elam et al, 1992).

Analysis of teacher responses to the closed-ended items showed a similar pattern of responses, though teachers were uniformly less positive in their responses than parents. For example, 10% fewer teachers agreed that "all parents of public school children should receive a *School Report Card*," and more than 40% of teachers felt that publishing *Report Cards* would not help to improve the quality of education.

In addition to the six attitudinal items, respondents were asked to rate all 10 *Report Card* indicators on a four-point readability scale (ranging from "Very Difficult to Understand" to "Very Easy to Understand"). The questionnaire also included a four-point "utility" scale for measuring the extent to which each indicator helps "you become more knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of your/your child's school."

Table III

Percent of Parents and Faculty Who Rated Indicators
Easy/Very Easy to Understand

Indicator	Parents	Faculty
Faculty Degree	88.2% (# 1)	93.1% (# 1)
Attendance	88.2% (# 1)	92.2% (# 2)
Suspended/Expelled	86.7% (# 3)	90.3% (# 6)
School Summary	86.5% (# 4)	92.0% (# 3)
Class Size	86.5% (# 4)	83.6% (#10)
NRT Results	83.6% (# 6)	84.2% (# 9)
Certification	82.6% (# 7)	90.7% (# 4)
ACT Results	82.3% (# 8)	86.6% (# 7)
CRT Results	81.4% (# 9)	84.8% (# 8)
Dropouts	80.4% (#10)	90.6% (# 5)

As noted in Tables II and III, parents gave all 10 indicators high readability ratings and lower (but nonetheless positive) utility ratings. In every instance but one (i.e., the class size indicator), teachers found the indicators easier to understand than did parents — a logical phenomenon, given teachers' greater familiarity with schools and the field of education research.

Perhaps because of this greater familiarity with school characteristics and outcomes, faculty tended to find the *Report Card* indicators less informative than did parents. As noted in Table III, utility ratings by parents ranged from a high of 83% for faculty degree to a low of 70.4% for dropouts. Utility ratings by faculty ranged from a high of 79.7% for the faculty degree indicator to a low of 67.7% for the class size indicator. Interestingly, class size was viewed as the second most informative indicator by parents but the least informative to faculty.

The relative lack of interest in suspension/expulsions, ACT results, and dropouts may be partially attributable to the fact that these indicators are strongly influenced by school type. ACT results and dropout rates are reported only on secondary *Report Cards*,

Table IV
Percent of Parents and Faculty Who Rated Indicators Helpful/Very Helpful

Indicator	Parents	Faculty
Faculty Degree	83.0% (# 1)	79.7% (# 1)
Class Size	82.6% (# 2)	67.7% (#10)
Certification	81.4% (# 3)	74.8% (# 4)
Attendance	80.6% (# 4)	77.4% (# 2)
CRT Results	79.9% (# 5)	75.9% (# 3)
NRT Results	79.4% (# 6)	75.0% (# 4)
School Summary	75.4% (# 7)	71.7% (# 6)
Suspended/Expelled	73.8% (# 8)	71.7% (# 6)
ACT Results	72.7% (# 9)	71.7% (#6)
Dropouts	70.4% (#10)	68.1% (#9)

and only small percentages of elementary students are expelled or suspended out-of-school. These indicators therefore would have offered very little information to those elementary parents and teachers who responded to the survey (and thus would have received sample elementary *Report Cards*).

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare participant responses by race, gender, and respondent type (parent, school staff), and t-tests were conducted to determine whether differences in subgroup responses were statistically significant. Minorities were significantly more positive in their responses than were whites ($p < .05$), and females gave the indicators consistently higher readability ratings than did males, regardless of the category of respondent (i.e., parent, teacher, or principal). Though these gender differences were not statistically significant among parents but were significant among faculty ($p < .05$). Finally, principals were significantly more positive in their attitudes than were teachers ($p < .05$).

The analysis also showed statistically significant differences among responses based on the educational level and SES of respondents. Low-income and/or poorly educated parents (those with less than a high school education) were significantly more positive in their attitudes toward the program ($p < .05$), and had significantly more

difficulty reading the *Report Card* indicators ($p < .05$).

Qualitative Findings. As previously mentioned, all open-ended comments were analyzed using the constant comparative technique (Lincoln and Guba, 1985). The resulting findings yielded further evidence that parents and faculty found the *Report Cards* easy to read. They also suggested that some respondents who *felt they understood* the indicators were in fact *misinterpreting them.* For example, some respondents apparently believed that the certification indicator shows the percent of teachers at a school who are uncertified, when the indicator in fact presents the percent of teachers who are uncertified for a particular course they teach.

Analysis of the open-ended comments also shed further light on the pessimism expressed by some respondents that the program could contribute to school improvement. Some of the most negative comments expressed by parents seemed more a reflection of the respondents' unhappiness with their local school or with education in general than a statement about the *Report Card* program. "Why are you spending this money on a useless project?" one parent asked. "The curriculum at ... School is obviously designed for underachievers. Why don't you do something about that instead?" Another insisted that "You are wasting your money and my time. In 36 years of sending children and grandchildren to Louisiana public schools, this school is the worst over all I've ever saw [SIC]."

The frustration such comments projected — that the *Profiles* program is a wasted effort, not because the *Report Card* itself is bad, but because schools are beyond "fixing" — was very explicit in one father's comment. "All parents of public school children should receive a *School Report Card* on their child's school, not that it will do any good," he wrote. The respondent indicated by his attitudinal responses that he believed *Report Cards* help parents understand the strengths and weaknesses of their child's school, and he also agreed that every parent should receive one. He nonetheless strongly disagreed that the *Report Card* would help the school staff make improvements, and further indicated that publishing *Report Cards* would **not** help improve the quality of education."

Roughly half of the respondents who provided open-ended comments suggested including additional information on future *Report Cards*. Parents requested more detailed

information on student discipline and teacher preparation/certification, while school staff requested more student demographics, particularly SES.

Admittedly only a tiny percentage of parents provided open-ended comments (i.e., half of all parent respondents or roughly 5 percent of the initial sample). To determine whether respondents who made open-ended comments had substantially different views from all other respondents, the researchers compared the responses that both groups made to the closed-ended items and found no substantive difference between the groups.

Phase II: Focus Groups

Research Design

Sample. Findings from the exploratory (Phase I) survey were used to develop interview protocols for Phase II of the study, a series of four focus groups — two with parents and two with teachers. For this second phase, a random sample of schools was drawn from a tri-district area in and around Louisiana's capitol city — one metropolitan, one suburban, and one rural. Participating districts were asked to draw a 10% random sample of parents from the targeted schools, then provide information on the ethnicity, address, and telephone number of each family. Teacher rosters with similar information also were provided for the targeted schools.

Participants were recruited by telephone approximately 10 days in advance of the focus groups. Care was taken to ensure equitable representation of subgroups based on gender, ethnicity, education level, and SES. As a result, the actual focus group participants were evenly distributed by race, educational level, and income level. Females were disproportionately represented among the parent groups due to difficulties in the recruitment of males.

Because homogeneity of grouping is essential in focus group research (Krueger, 1985), potential participants were screened on key demographic variables before assignment to groups. Parents were assigned to low or middle/high-SES groups to prevent poorly-educated participants from feeling intimidated among better-educated peers. Homogeneity of teacher groupings posed less of a problem,[2] so teachers were assigned

[2] It was assumed that teachers would be relatively homogeneous in terms of both income and educational attainment, given their common profession).

to elementary or secondary groups. Teachers also were screened to ensure that all had been assigned to their schools for at least two years, thus ensuring that all members were familiar with the communities their schools served and with faculty attitudes toward the *Report Cards* at those schools.

Method(s) of Analysis. Field notes from the four focus groups were analyzed using the constant comparative technique (Lincoln and Guba, 1985) and QUALPRO text database manager.

Focus Group Results

As previously mentioned, the focus groups were considered an extension of the Phase I survey in that they enabled the researchers to explore key questions that were raised but not resolved through the standardized survey. To a large extent, the focus group findings related to three of the five research questions posed in Table I:

1) To what extent are public school parents aware of the *School Report Cards* program?
2) How well do public school parents and faculty understand the information presented on the *1991-92 School Report Cards?*
3) How well do the *1991-92 School Report Cards* convey the type(s) of information that public school parents and faculty want to know about schools?

Findings related to each of these research questions are summarized below.

To what extent are public school parents aware of the *School Report Cards* program? It became readily apparent in the course of recruiting and later interacting with focus group participants that parent awareness of the *Report Cards* program is extremely low. Very few of the parent prospects contacted during the screening process were familiar with the program or recalled seeing their child's *School Report Card*. Even after receiving a copy in the mail, few parent participants recognized the report. While teacher participants were generally familiar with the program, they were skeptical that parents were very familiar with the *Report Cards* and recounted various problems getting children to carry the reports home. Various suggestions were made for improving the program's visibility, such as mailing *Report Cards* directly to parents, stapling a copy to the child's own report card, running announcements in school newsletters, etc.

How well do public school parents and faculty understand the information presented on the *1991-92 School Report Cards*? As previously mentioned, the analysis of open-ended survey comments suggested that some parents and school staff who considered the *Report Cards* easy to read were in fact misinterpreting various indicators. Because it was impossible (based on survey responses) to judge the extent of the problem or to determine why respondents were having difficulty, the issue was explored in depth during the focus groups.

The dialogue with parents and teachers yielded confirmatory evidence that parents and teachers had difficulty understanding the *1991-92 Report Cards*. Pertinent findings are summarized below.

1) Both parent and teacher participants felt that the reading level of the *Report Card* text (which has since been estimated at the 13th grade level, using the software program *Grammatik*) is too high, particularly for low-SES and/or poorly educated parents.

2) Parents, in particular, preferred that more data be presented in text form rather than table format.

3) Parents and teachers alike had difficulty interpreting or at least *relating to* percents (e.g., percent of student suspensions, percent of student dropouts, etc.) without accompanying frequencies (i.e., counts of students suspended, etc.)

4) Both parents and teachers felt the *Report Card* should be more closely tailored to school type, so that elementary *Report Cards* would have fewer empty data blocks labeled "data not applicable."[3]

How well do the *1991-92 School Report Cards* convey the type(s) of information that public school parents and faculty want to know about schools? As previously mentioned, the analysis of open-ended survey comments showed parent respondents to have a keen interest in teacher preparation and student discipline. However, when the parent groups were asked to identify the "most important" and "least important" *Report*

[3] One template was used to produce all *1991-92 School Report Cards*. Thus, indicators that were specific to grade level (e.g., grade 3 CRT results or dropout data, which is reported for grades 7-12 only) are included on every *Report Card*, regardless of the grade configuration of the particular school. Blank tables labeled "data not applicable due to grade structure" are presented if the indicator data do not apply to the school in question.

Card indicators, the results were considerably different. Three indicators — test results, class size, and school summary information (i.e., number of faculty and students) — were high on the list of "most important," but the two faculty indicators (faculty degree and certification) and three student behavioral indicators (attendance, suspension/expulsions, and dropouts) were generally rated low.

In the course of discussion, it became apparent that parents were keenly interested in teacher preparation, but found teacher certification confusing and questioned whether faculty degree was a good indicator of teacher ability or performance. Moreover, several respondents indicated that both areas were outside the influence of parents. Insofar as the three student behavior indicators were concerned, parents seemed interested only so far as their own children were concerned. As one mother put it, "I make sure my child is in school — I don't care whether anybody else's is." Black parents expressed interest in the suspension/expulsion indicator, but only if it could be enlarged to break out disciplinary actions by race and gender.

As previously mentioned, faculty respondents to the *Report Card* survey primarily requested additional information on student demographics, particularly SES. Only one teacher volunteered that suggestion in either teacher focus group. When later prompted by the facilitators as to whether student SES should be reported, participants in both groups spoke overwhelmingly against it, fearing that reporting the percent of low-income students in attendance would unnecessarily stigmatize schools.

When asked to identify the "most important" indicators, elementary and secondary teachers identified test scores twice as often as any other indicator. Both groups also cited class size as among the "most important" and student attendance as among the "least important." On all other indicators, teachers tended to split along elementary/secondary lines. Elementary teachers found teacher certification nearly as important as testing, but rated the remaining student behavioral indicators (suspensions/expulsions and dropouts) as "least important." Secondary teachers, on the other hand, rated student suspensions/expulsions and dropouts among the "most important indicators," but faculty degree as among the "least." It should be noted, however, that the faculty degree indicator was rated low only by those teachers with less than a master's degree.

Conclusion

As previously mentioned, if the primary purpose of school indicator systems is to promote school improvement by providing meaningful data on the condition of education, then the information presented must be both meaningful and understandable to the users — parents and school staff.

Based on feedback from the parental/staff surveys, the Bureau of School Accountability staff has made substantial modifications to the format of this year's (1992-93) *School Report Cards*. These revisions include replacing the current single *Report Card* format with individualized formats for elementary, secondary, and K-12 schools; adding explanatory text to each indicator; simplifying the presentation of tables; presenting both frequencies and percents on most indicators, and rewriting all text to an average 8th grade level as opposed to the former 13th grade level. This revised *Report Card (see Appendix C)* has been praised by policy makers, educators, and parents both within and outside the LDE as a vast improvement over the 1991-92 version. Several strategies are also under review for improving the delivery of *Report Cards* to parents.

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Enterprise High School

P.O. Box 100
Enterprise, Louisiana 71425-0000
Catahoula Parish

Louisiana Progress Profile
School Report Card

School Year 1991 - 1992

This School Report Card contains important facts about this school, its district, and in some instances, the state and the nation.

Note:

- Tables and charts in this report include data on all students who attend regular education classes. Data for special education students who do *not* attend regular education classes are omitted.
- The data presented in Table 4 include all regular and special education faculty.
- "N/A" applies to data which are "Not Applicable."

1. School Summary Information

Information Category	1990-91	1991-92
School Name	Enterprise High School	Enterprise High School
Grade Levels	K-12,S	P,K-12
End-of-Year Membership	108	116
- Regular Education	108	116
- Special Education	0	0
Number of Faculty	14	13

2. Percent of Faculty with a Master's Degree or Higher

School	District	State
1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
46.15	35.60	44.12

3. Percent of Classes By Grades and Class Size Range

Grades	Class Size Range	School		District	State
		1990-91	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
K - 3	1 - 12	38.46	50.00	14.49	4.24
	13 - 20	61.54	50.00	37.68	31.92
	21 - 26	0.00	0.00	47.83	62.68
	27 or more	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16
4 - 12	1 - 12	55.26	69.70	28.88	8.65
	13 - 20	42.11	30.30	32.22	19.71
	21 - 26	2.63	0.00	30.45	37.01
	27 - 33	0.00	0.00	8.45	34.60
	34 or more	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has set class size limits. Grades K-3 should have no more than 26 students in a class. Classes in grades 4-12 should have no more than 33 students. Activity classes such as band, PE, and chorus are not included. These classes are allowed to have more than 33 students.

4. Percent of Classes Taught by Faculty Who Hold State-Issued Certificates for These Classes

School		District	State
1990-91	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
77.89	71.08	81.96	87.18

The majority of the remaining classes are taught by faculty who are authorized by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education but do not hold state-issued certificates for those particular classes.

5. Percent of Student Attendance

School		District
1990-91	1991-92	1991-92
94.73	96.61	93.70

Student attendance data should be viewed with caution since no standard definition for a day of attendance existed for either the 1990-91 or the 1991-92 school years. However, a standard definition piloted during the 1992-93 school year will be implemented beginning with the 1993-94 school year.

6. Percent of Student Dropouts

Grade Level	School		District	State
	1990-91	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
7	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.72
8	9.09	0.00	0.93	2.15
9	0.00	0.00	3.85	5.57
10	0.00	0.00	2.30	4.87
11	0.00	0.00	0.77	4.43
12	0.00	0.00	1.49	3.43
Total 7 - 12	1.39	0.00	1.55	3.66

For the 1991-92 school year, a total of 0 students dropped out of this school.

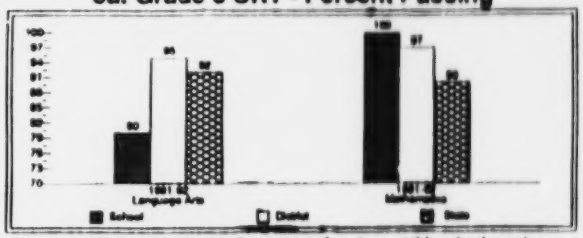
7. Percent of Students Suspended and Expelled

Disciplinary Action	School		District
	1990-91	1991-92	1991-92
Suspended	2.92	5.08	12.42
Expelled	0.00	0.00	0.43

This table shows only out-of-school suspensions.

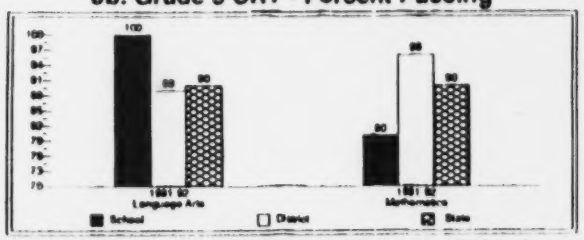
For the 1991-92 school year, 6 students were suspended and 0 students were expelled from this school.

8a. Grade 3 CRT - Percent Passing



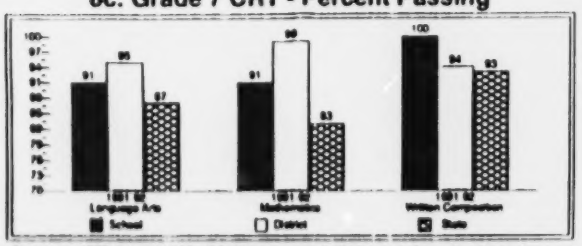
Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the percent of students at this school passing
- Language Arts decreased from 100% to 80%, and
- Mathematics did not change

8b. Grade 5 CRT - Percent Passing



Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the percent of students at this school passing
- Language Arts increased from 93% to 100%, and
- Mathematics decreased from 100% to 80%.

8c. Grade 7 CRT - Percent Passing



Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the percent of students at this school passing
- Language Arts decreased from 100% to 91%,
- Mathematics increased from 75% to 91%, and
- Written Composition did not change

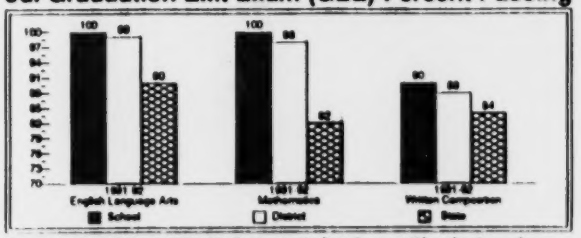
Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP)

Louisiana administers two types of tests to our students.

1. A criterion-referenced test (CRT) provides information on how well students are meeting state standards. The CRT at the secondary level is referred to as the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE).
2. A norm-referenced test (NRT) provides information on how Louisiana students compare with other students nationally.

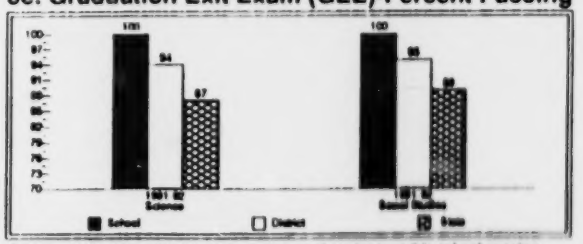
The state test results reflect scores for regular education students and special education students identified as gifted and/or talented, speech impaired, and/or hospital/homebound.

8d. Graduation Exit Exam (GEE)-Percent Passing



Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the percent of students at this school passing
- English Language Arts did not change,
- Mathematics did not change, and
- Written Composition decreased from 100% to 90%.

8e. Graduation Exit Exam (GEE)-Percent Passing



Between 1990-91 and 1991-92, the percent of students at this school passing
- Science did not change, and
- Social Studies did not change

9. NRT Results

Percent of Students Scoring above the National 50th Percentile

Grade Level	School		District	State	National Norm Group
	1990-91	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
Grade 4	50.0	50.0	46.3	44.0	50.0
Grade 6	50.0	50.0	48.3	49.6	50.0
Grade 9	66.7	66.9	65.4	44.5	50.0

The above chart indicates how well the students in this school, the district, and the state did as compared to other students across the nation (national norm group).

10. ACT Results

Average Composite Scores

School		District (public)	State (public & non-public)	Nation (public & non-public)
1990-91	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92	1991-92
23.0	19.0	18.5	19.4	20.6

The American College Test (ACT) is a national test used for college entrance. The ACT composite score is based on the scores for the four ACT assessment tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. The highest possible composite score is 36.

Individualized School-level Progress Profiles (School Report Cards) were prepared for 1,388 of the 1,444 public schools in Louisiana. Some special education, alternative, and vocational education centers did not receive Progress Profiles due to a lack of data in some areas. The district and state averages/percentages presented in this report are based on those schools receiving Progress Profiles.

Louisiana Department of Education

School Report Card Survey

Dear Parents,

The Department of Education is trying to keep parents informed about Louisiana public schools. Knowing your opinion about the current *School Report Cards* is very important to us. Your response to this survey will help us provide better information to you and other parents. **Enclosed is a copy of the School Report Card for your child's school**. Please answer the following questions related to the enclosed School Report Card.

To ensure confidentiality ***DO NOT*** write your name or identify yourself on this survey.

Please return the completed form in the enclosed stamped envelope.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please call Susan Kochan or Dr. Bobby Franklin at (504) 342-3756.

Thank you very much for helping us as we work to improve Louisiana schools.

Sincerely,

Raymond G. Arveson

Raymond G. Arveson
State Superintendent of Education

On a scale of 1-4, how strongly do you disagree/agree with the following statements? Please refer to the enclosed School Report Card. [Circle the appropriate number.]

1. The information included in the enclosed *School Report Card* will help the principal and teachers to improve the quality of education at my child's school.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

2. All parents of public school children should receive a *School Report Card* on their child's school.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

3. The information included in the *School Report Card* helps me better understand the strengths and weaknesses of my child's school.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

4. Publishing *School Report Cards* like this one will **not** help improve the quality of education.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

5. Only those parents that request a *School Report Card* should receive one.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

6. Reports like this one are a waste of time and money.
   Strongly Disagree **1 2 3 4** Strongly Agree

The *School Report Cards* report 10 categories of information (indicators) on schools. **On a scale of 1-4**, please show *how easy or difficult* each indicator is to understand. [Circle the appropriate number.]

1. School Summary Information — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
2. Faculty w/ Master's Degree or Higher — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
3. Classes by Grades/Class Size — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
4. Classes Taught by Faculty — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
5. Student Attendance — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
6. Student Dropouts — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
7. Students Suspended/Expelled — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
8. CRT/GEE Results — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
9. NRT Results — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy
10. ACT Results — Very Difficult **1 2 3 4** Very Easy

On a scale of 1-4, please show how *helpful* each indicator is in terms of helping you become more knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of your child's schools. [Circle the appropriate number.]

1. School Summary	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
2. Faculty w/ Master's Degree or Higher	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
3. Classes by Grades/Class Size	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
4. Classes Taught by Faculty	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
5. Student Attendance	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
6. Student Dropouts	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
7. Students Suspended/Expelled	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
8. CRT/GEE Results	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
9. NRT Results	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful
10. ACT Results	Not Helpful at All	1	2	3	4	Very Helpful

Please help us to improve the *School Report Cards*. **On a scale of 1-5**, please show whether you think the *1991-92 School Report Card* includes the right amount of information in the following areas. [Circle the appropriate number.]

1. Faculty/Teacher Information (e.g., Education, Certification)	Too Little	1	2	3	4	5	Too Much
2. Student Information (e.g., Attendance, Suspension, Expulsion, Dropout)	Too Little	1	2	3	4	5	Too Much
3. Test Information	Too Little	1	2	3	4	5	Too Much
4. School Summary Information (e.g., Student Membership, Grade Level, Class Size)	Too Little	1	2	3	4	5	Too Much

Continued on the back!

If you think the *School Report Card* should include more information about your child's school, what information would you like to see *ADDED*?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

All responses are strictly ***confidential***! Please provide the following information to help us ensure that this survey represents parents statewide.

[Circle the appropriate response.]

Sex: **Male Female**

Race/Ethnicity: **White Black Other**

Please check the income range that best describes your TOTAL FAMILY income in 1992:

___under $15,000/year
___$15,001 - $25,000
___$25,001 - $35,000
___$35,001 - $50,000
___more than $50,000

Please check the highest educational level you have achieved:

___ Attended high school but did not graduate

___ Graduated from high school or obtained GED

___ Graduated from junior college or vocational school

___ Attended a college but did not graduate

___ Graduated from a 4-year college

Please return this survey to the Bureau of School Accountability, P.O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge 70804-9064 in the enclosed stamped envelope by Friday, May 14, 1993.

1992-1993

School Report Card

ALL GRADE SCHOOL

1111 Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 90808
(504)555-5555

DRAFT

The *School Report Card* gives parents important information about their child's school. As you read it, remember that every school is different, with its own special strengths and needs. For that reason, the *Report Card* cannot tell you everything. It can, however, show you some things happening at school that affect your child's education. We urge you to find out more about your school from its teachers and principal. Please stay actively involved in your child's education.

SCHOOL SUMMARY

The School

The table to the right gives facts about your school. When the school year ended your school had 430 students in grades K-12.

Your School	
Grades	Students
K-12	430

The Faculty

There were 30 faculty members at your school in 1992-93. The faculty includes teachers, principals, librarians, and counselors. It is important that children are taught by teachers who are prepared. One way teachers prepare themselves is through more education. The larger the percent for your school, the more faculty members have gone back to college. Statewide, 44% (44 out of every 100) faculty had a master's degree or higher.

Faculty with a Master's Degree or Higher		
Your School	District	State
46%	50%	44%

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Student grades and test scores don't tell everything about schools. The number of students in class and the discipline at a school affect your child's education. Information on attendance, suspensions, expulsions and dropouts says something about how much time students spend in school. This information also tells us how difficult it is for some children to finish school.

How Large are the Classes?

Small classes allow teachers more time with each student. Teachers find small classes less stressful. Students who attend schools with smaller classes generally score higher on state tests. In 1992-93, 10 classes at your school (25%) had 1-20 students, 20 classes (50%) had 21-26 students, and 10 classes (25%) had 27 or more. Classes such as band, choir, and P.E. are excluded.

Class Size

Students Per Class	Your School	District	State
1-20	25%	15%	17%
21-26	50%	60%	63%
27 +	25%	25%	20%

Is Attending School Important to My Child's Education?

Students who attend school every day are more likely to do better in school and are less likely to drop out. Schools with better attendance usually have higher test scores. If a school had 90% attendance, then 90 out of every 100 students would be present every day.

Student Attendance

Your School	District
90%	95%

How Many Students are Suspended or Expelled?

The number of students suspended or expelled is one way of looking at discipline. In 1992-93, 15 students (14.2%) were suspended out-of-school. During the same year, 3 students (2.0%) were expelled. Some schools have in-school suspension programs.

Students Suspended & Expelled

	Your School		District
	Number	Percent	Percent
Suspended	15	14.2%	9.5%
Expelled	3	2.0%	15.0%

How Many Students Dropped Out?

It is important for students to finish high school. Students who do not complete school have a harder time getting good jobs. Statewide, 3.7% (nearly four out of every 100 students) dropped out in 1992-93.

Student Dropouts

Grade Level	Your School		District	State
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	3	7.1%	1.7%	1.7%
8	11	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%
9	10	20.0%	4.1%	5.6%
10	9	30.4%	4.1%	4.9%
11	2	5.6%	2.3%	4.4%
12	0	0.0%	6.3%	3.4%
7-12	35	10.7%	3.3%	3.7%

State School Code: 010002

COLLEGE READINESS

Are Students Ready for College?

One way to tell if students are prepared for college is to look at their ACT scores. The ACT table shows the average score for your school, district, state, and nation. The best possible ACT score is 36.

ACT Scores

Your School	District	State	Nation
18.3	19.5	19.4	20.6

Another way to tell if students are prepared is to see how many took remedial courses in college. Of the 200 students who graduated from your school in 1991-92, 175 (88%) attended a Louisiana public college in the fall of 1992. Of those 175 students, 80 (46%) took at least one remedial course. Statewide, 50% (50 out of every 100 first-time freshmen) took a remedial class.

Graduates Who Took a Remedial Course in College

Your School		District	State
Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
80	46%	52%	50%

TESTING

To measure student learning, the state gives two types of tests. For grades 4 and 6, the CAT compares Louisiana students to students nationwide. The LEAP tests that are given in grades 3, 5, 7, and the Graduation Exit Exam measure what the state expects students to learn.

How Do Our Students Compare Nationally?

Your school's median percentile rank in 1992-93 was 70 for grade 4, and 80 for grade 6. The table compares your school to the district, state and nation.

CAT - Grades 4 and 6 Median Percentile Rank

Grade Level	Your School	District	State	Nation
Grade 4	70	67	72	50
Grade 6	80	87	65	50

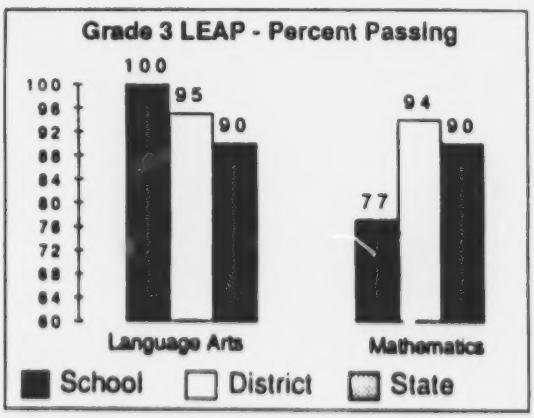
HOW TO READ THE LEAP RESULTS

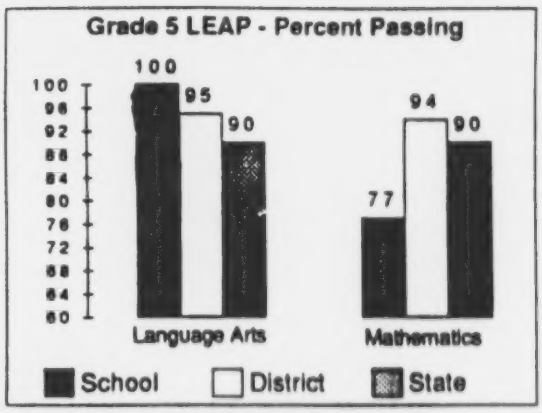
The black bar in each graph shows the percent of students at your school who passed the test in 1992-93. The white bar is for the district and the shaded bar is for the state.

How Many Third Graders at Your School Passed The LEAP Tests?

Language Arts. In 1992-93, 100% (100 out of every 100 students) passed.

Math. In 1992-93, 77% (77 out of every 100 students) passed.

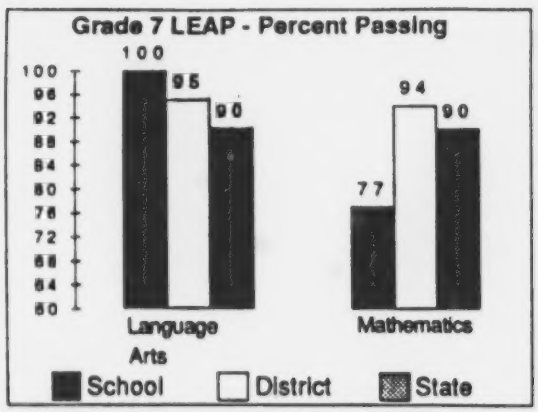




How Many Fifth Graders at Your School Passed The LEAP Tests?

Language Arts. In 1992-93, 100% (100 out of every 100 students) passed.

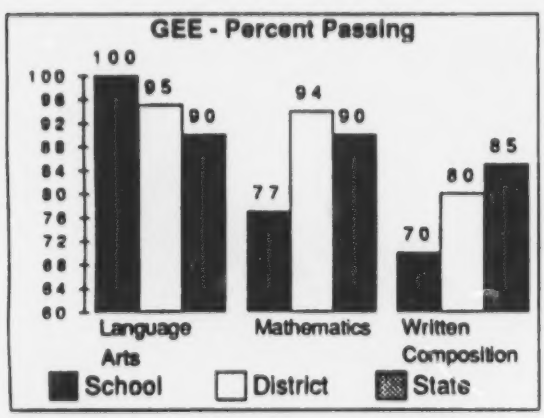
Math. In 1992-93, 77% (77 out of every 100 students) passed.



How Many Seventh Graders at Your School Passed The LEAP Tests?

Language Arts. In 1992-93, 100% (100 out of every 100 students) passed.

Math. In 1992-93, 77% (77 out of every 100 students) passed.

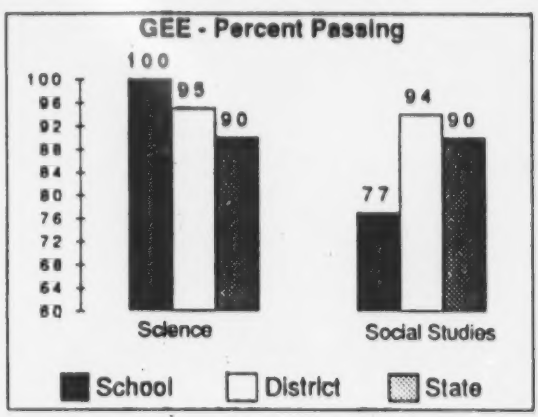


How Many Students at Your School Passed The Graduation Exit Exam?

Language Arts. In 1992-93, 100% (100 out of every 100 students) passed.

Math. In 1992-93, 77% (77 out of every 100 students) passed.

Written Composition. In 1992-93, 70% (70 out of every 100 students) passed.



Science. In 1992-93, 100% (100 out of every 100 students) passed.

Social Studies. In 1992-93, 77% (77 out of every 100 students) passed.